

and the 22 years of remarkable service in the United States Army. May he know that this body and his Nation are proud of him.

#### TRIBUTE TO RON GREENSTEIN

#### HON. ROBERT WEXLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 12, 2006*

Mr. WEXLER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the significant achievements of a gentleman who has shown great leadership throughout the State of Florida, Representative Ron Greenstein, who will soon be completing his last term in the Florida Legislature.

Throughout his career, Representative Greenstein has stood out as a devoted supporter of environmental, health care, hunger and economic causes. He has championed issues for senior citizens, fought to protect Florida's water resources and advocated for the legislation of video lottery terminals. He displayed profound dedication to children's hunger causes with his 2004 IMAGINE specialty tag bill, which provided funding for food banks throughout the State, and his 2005 Children's Summer Nutrition Act, which drew down nearly \$104 million to implement summer feeding programs for disadvantaged children.

A passionate advocate of environmental reform, Representative Greenstein has served as Executive Director of the Broward County Resource Recovery Board, which promotes solid waste management, conservation of energy and recycling. He has recently been honored with the "Legislative Leadership Award" by the Florida Association of Food Banks and has been acknowledged as the "Favorite Legislator" by the Silver-Haired Legislature. An active and dedicated member of the South Florida community, Ron has served as Chairperson of the Broward Alliance and Broward County Welfare Reform Committee, and has held a position in the Board of Directors of the North Broward Chamber of Commerce and the SOS Children's Village in Broward County.

Today, I congratulate Representative Greenstein on his exemplary work and thank him for his unwavering commitment and determination throughout his career as an elected official of the State of Florida.

#### COAL-TO-LIQUID FUEL ENERGY ACT OF 2006

#### HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 12, 2006*

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, while other industrialized countries have embraced weaning themselves off imported oil by commercializing coal-to-liquid fuel technologies for transportation fuels, the United States has lagged behind in this endeavor as it has with other alternative fuels primarily due to the lack of will and the price of oil.

South Africa, for instance, at its Sasol facilities, is meeting 30 percent of its liquid fuel requirements through coal liquefaction using a technology originally developed in Germany

during the 1920s. Worldwide oil prices are now at a level that would make more attractive investments in large-scale coal-to-liquid fuel facilities in this country. However, as evident with other alternative fuels such as ethanol, federal incentives will be necessary in order to sustain this type of an effort over the long-term.

The "Coal-to-Liquid Fuel Energy Act of 2006" proposes to take an omnibus approach to the commercialization of coal liquefaction technology by stimulating the production, marketing, and use of coal-to-liquid fuels. The bill would:

Amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to explicitly make commercial coal-to-liquid fuel facilities eligible under that law's energy project loan guarantee program.

Establish a loan program within the Department of Energy to commercialize coal-to-liquid fuel facilities.

Authorize as the Energy Secretary deems appropriate the purchase of coal-to-liquid fuels for Strategic Petroleum Reserve purposes.

Extend through 2020 the availability of the alternative fuel excise tax credit for coal-to-liquid fuels authorized by the 2005 federal highway and transit reauthorization legislation (SAFETEA-LU).

#### HONORING ARNOLD B. GARDNER, ROOT-STIMSON AWARD RECIPIENT

#### HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 12, 2006*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Arnold B. Gardner, a determined and dedicated leader in the advancement of quality and accessible education, as the recipient of the Root-Stimson Award, presented recently by the New York State Bar Association for outstanding community service.

I can think of no one more deserving as Arnold Gardner for this prestigious award. Mr. Gardner is well-known for his volunteer service across the state and as a "champion of public education," according to Jeremiah J. McCarthy, president of the Erie County Bar Association.

Mr. Gardner is indeed a champion whose advocacy on behalf of public education spans almost four decades. From 1969–1977, he was a member and served as president of the Buffalo Board of Education. He was appointed to a statewide task force on teacher education and certification in the late 1970s.

In 1980, he was appointed to the Board of Trustees for SUNY during which time he served as a vice chairman. Following 19 years of service on the SUNY Board, he was elected to the New York State Board of Regents in 1999 where he oversees Kindergarten through 12th grade education, higher learning and professional practices. Re-elected in 2004, Mr. Gardner will remain a Regent until 2009.

Mr. Gardner's commitment to community service extends to his membership on the Board of Governors of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute and the National Council of the American Jewish Committee where he served as National Vice President. He is also a Trustee of the New York State Archives Partnership Trust and previously served as a

member of the New York State Holocaust Memorial Commission. He was recognized in 1997 with the Meritorious Service Award from the New York State NAACP, and in 1988, he and his wife, attorney Sue Gardner, were honored by the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

Now, a senior partner at the Kavinoky Cook law firm, where he joined after he graduated from Harvard Law in 1953, Mr. Gardner continues to find a balance between his passion for both law and education. In addition to being regarded as one of the best corporate lawyers in the nation, he remains as a pioneer in advancing educational issues in Buffalo and New York State.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Gardner provides us all with a model of how our convictions can extend into all facets of our lives—our career, family, community. A Life magazine article about Harvard Law School inspired Mr. Gardner to follow his dream of becoming a lawyer, but he didn't lose sight of his other passions—a passion for education and community service. On behalf of the Western New York community, I would like to congratulate Mr. Gardner and extend our best wishes to him and his entire family, for this outstanding achievement.

#### DEEP OCEAN ENERGY RESOURCES ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

#### HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 29, 2006*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4761) to provide for exploration, development, and production activities for mineral resources on the outer Continental Shelf, and for other purposes:

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 4761.

Our country is facing a painful energy crisis as a result of the policies of this Administration and Congressional Leadership. The price of oil is as high as it has ever been, and the people in my district in North Carolina are suffering from these high energy prices. The American people desperately need effective new energy policies, but H.R. 4761 is simply more of the same failed solutions from the Republican majority in this body.

This legislation would override provisions in my State of North Carolina against offshore drilling, and eliminate a long-standing national moratorium on coastal drilling. I have never supported drilling off the Outer Continental Shelf that could threaten North Carolina's pristine beaches.

Instead of finding new solutions to our energy crisis, such as passing biofuels legislation that would encourage our farmers to grow our own fuel here at home, the Republican leadership chooses to put at risk the places all Americans hold dear.

Mr. Chairman, I will vote against H.R. 4761, and I urge my colleagues to vote against this bill.

CONGRATULATING COLONEL ELLIS  
AS HE IS HONORED BY THE  
TOBYHANNA ARMY DEPOT OF  
MONROE COUNTY

### HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 12, 2006*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to COL Tracy L. Ellis, who has commanded the Tobyhanna Army Depot in Monroe County, Pennsylvania, from July 31, 2003 to July 20, 2006, when he will turn over command to COL Ronald Alberto.

The Tobyhanna Army Depot is the Nation's largest repair station for military communications equipment and weapons targeting systems. It employs more than 3,000 people and circulates more than \$450 million each year to the local economy.

Under Colonel Ellis' command, mission workload surged by 40 percent between 2003 and 2004 and 60 percent between 2003 and 2005. The depot effectively incorporated hundreds of new employees to meet the expanded workload.

The depot also expanded maintenance support of other critical systems including aircraft survivability equipment, aircrew survival radios, secure communications equipment, air defense and air traffic control, landing systems and tactical satellite communications systems.

Tobyhanna Army Depot effectively prepared for the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure process, and will gain new missions from two other installations as a result.

During his command tour, Colonel Ellis added to Tobyhanna's environmental stewardship, winning the Secretary of the Army Environmental Quality Award in both 2004 and 2005. The 2005 award recognized the depot for pollution prevention in the industrial installation category for recycling more than 40 percent of the solid waste generated annually.

The depot's special employment programs earned further recognition with receipt of the 2003 Army Disability Program of the Year Award.

Colonel Ellis also directed that the depot's Army Community Services program allot its limited resources to provide maximum assistance to the large National Guard and Reserve population surrounding the installation. ACS has conducted many briefings for hundreds of families of military personnel before, during and after their deployments.

Colonel Ellis' command of Tobyhanna Army Depot is one marked by rapid increases in maintenance production, growth of depot employees, innovation and improvement in business and production management and sustained performance in environmental stewardship.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Colonel Ellis on a job well done. His devotion to duty and country as well as his commitment to excellence have bolstered the already superb reputation of the Tobyhanna Army Depot as an indispensable resource for the American Armed Forces, and insured that the depot will remain a key element in the region's economic well-being.

THE BOOMERS HAVE ARRIVED—  
JIM GHIEMMETTI TURNING 60

### HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 12, 2006*

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, this Saturday night I will join the many friends of Jim Ghielmetti in celebrating an event that millions of Americans will share over the coming years. The baby boomers are turning 60, and there is nothing they can do about it. Jim's birthday is May 15th, but I think his wonderful wife Laurie wanted to give him a few months to adjust before he faced his many friends who will gather in San Francisco to wish him well. I share a May birthday but a year earlier so I had the pleasure of being ahead of Jim and the boomers.

It has now been almost 30 years since I was introduced to a young builder in my congressional district. Sid Lippow, our mutual friend who introduced us, said that he thought it was important for us to get to know one another. He said that we could give balance to each other and that we were the future of our professions, me in politics and Jim in homebuilding. But as Sid said, Jim was about building more than homes, he was building communities.

For these 30 years we have indeed added balance to one another. Most of the time after long debates over a wide range of issues, from endangered species, the future of Social Security, community planning, the right level of taxation, and so many other topics. We have argued about them in one another's homes, in restaurants and at the kids' soccer games. Through it all we have remained the best of friends.

Jim Ghielmetti has come a long way since those early days when he was learning his profession while working for Shapell Industries of Northern California. In 1983 he struck out on his own and founded Signature Properties. Today, under his leadership, the company has built more than 6,000 homes, with another 3,500 homes currently in the planning or design phases. Signature is well known throughout the greater Bay Area and Sacramento regions for its diverse product offerings in both urban and suburban settings, its commercial and mixed-use projects and its master-planned communities.

True to my first introduction to Jim, he was building more than houses. He has given an extraordinary amount of his time to making the Bay Area a better community. Since 1994, Jim Ghielmetti has focused on local transportation issues by chairing the Transportation Committee of the Tri-Valley Business Council. The Transportation Committee addresses such issues as toll roads, Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) expansion to the Tri-Valley area and obtaining matching federal funds for expansion of Interstates 580 and 680.

For the last 5 years, Jim has served on the Board of Directors of the Bay Area Council. The Bay Area Council is an organization that aggressively addresses the challenges that affect the economic well-being and quality of life in the nine Bay Area counties. He also serves on the Executive Committee of the Policy Advisory Board for the Fisher Center for Real Estate and Urban Economics at the University of California, Berkeley. In 2000, Jim served on

the Governor's Commission for the 21st Century, a group charged with developing a blueprint for California to follow in addressing transportation, housing, environmental and other issues of the 21st century. In 2003, Jim was appointed to the California State Transportation Commission.

Jim Ghielmetti has been an outstanding citizen participant in the public policy debates in our region and in our State.

Homebuilding is what Jim Ghielmetti does, but his family tells us who he is. Jim and his wife Laurie, a very successful businesswoman in the design field, have been partners in life and in business. They have raised two great sons, Michael and Brian, and recently a grandson Matteo. Michael, specializing in creative urban infill, is working with Jim at Signature Properties, and Brian is in New York doing urban renovations. Jim and Laurie and all of us are very proud of them both.

These are just some of the reasons why so many of Jim's friends will be coming together to wish him a very happy birthday with so many more to come. This birthday may be a shock to Jim, but I can assure him that all of us are very glad that he has had these 60 years and wish him many more to come.

### THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT REAUTHORIZATION AND AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2006

### HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 12, 2006*

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be a sponsor of H.R. 9, "The Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa Parks and Coretta Scott King Voting Rights Act Reauthorization and Amendments Act of 2006." This legislation compliments the historic Voting Rights Act of 1965, which is considered to be among the greatest legislative accomplishments in our nation's history. Often referred to as the "Crown Jewel" of America's civil rights laws, the Act memorializes those who marched, struggled and even died to secure the right for all Americans to vote.

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 passed just months after the historic Selma to Montgomery march and remains a lasting achievement of the Civil Rights movement. It helped to change the face of Southern politics in ways we could hardly imagine. In Alabama, in the space of only one year after the Act became law, black voter registration practically doubled from 116,000 in August 1965 to 228,000 in August, 1966. By 1990, there were more than 7,300 black elected officials nationwide, including the governor of Virginia. The Act produced black Members of Congress from Alabama, Florida and North Carolina for the first time since Reconstruction. Rural black voters in Georgia and Louisiana sent black representatives to Congress as well.

One of the more meaningful provisions of the Act called for the placement of federal referees and monitors in counties with a clear practice of disenfranchisement. There were and still are subtle tools to discourage blacks, other minorities and poor people from voting. Local political establishments still use many of the same tactics: annexation ineligibility; purging voter lists; relocating polling places; the